You count! Get counted!

how & why to take the census
Hello! I’m Zoe Gross, & I work for the Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Self Advocacy Resource & Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC)

& thank you Green Mountain Self Advocates!
What is the census?

The census is when the government tries to count every person living in the United States.
What is the census?

The government asks questions about every home in the U.S.

One person from every home answers these questions.
What is the census?

The census happens every 10 years (2000, 2010, 2020, 2030...)

The census is happening right now!
How long can I take the census?

Because of COVID-19, the government gave everyone more time to take the census.

You can take the census until **September 30th, 2020**.
Why should I take the census?

The census gets information from everyone living in the U.S.

The government uses that information to make decisions.

These decisions affect people with disabilities.
Why should I take the census?

So the census is really important for people with disabilities!

There are two main ways the census affects people with disabilities.
1. Getting money for government programs

Information from the census helps governments figure out how much money different programs should get.

Some kinds of programs are schools, housing, and health care.

Many people with disabilities need help from these programs to live.
1. Getting money for government programs

To decide how much money to give programs, the government asks how many people the programs need to help.

The government uses the census to find this out.

If not enough people take the census, the government might not know how many people need help from these programs.

Then, they might cut money from the programs.
2. Getting the right number of Representatives

**Congress** is the part of the government that makes laws for the whole country.

Members of Congress are the people who make the laws.

There are Members of Congress for each state. People in each state vote for who should be Members of Congress.
2. Getting the right number of Representatives

The **House of Representatives** is one part of Congress.

The Members of Congress in the House of Representatives are called Representatives.

Every state has a different number of Representatives. It depends on how many people live in the state.
2. Getting the right number of Representatives

The census counts how many people live in each state.

The government uses that number to figure out how many Representatives each state gets.

If people don’t fill out the census, a state might get less Representatives.

Then, the people in that state won’t have as much of a say about laws.
How do I fill out the census?

There are 3 ways you can fill out the census:

1. You can take the census online.

You will fill out an online form with the census questions. Go to [https://my2020census.gov/](https://my2020census.gov/) to get started!
How do I fill out the census?

There are 3 ways you can fill out the census:

2. You can take the census over the phone.

A census worker will read the questions to you.

You can call (844) 330-2020 to take the census by phone.
How do I fill out the census?

There are 3 ways you can fill out the census:

3. You can write your census on paper.

You’ll send the paper back to the census office through the mail.

You may have already gotten a paper census in the mail. If you did, you can just fill it out and send it back.

If you want a paper census, you can call (844) 330-2020 and ask for one.
Can I get accommodations to fill out the census?

Yes!

You can get Braille or large print forms to fill out the paper census.

You can get someone to help you take the census in American Sign Language (ASL).

You can also take the census using a TTY by calling (844) 467-2020.
Can I take the census in another language?

If you speak a different language than English, you can still take the census.

You can take the census in many languages – online, on paper, or on the phone.

To learn more about taking the census in different languages, go to
Census video guides in many languages

The census office also made video guides about taking the census.

These guides are in many languages, like Spanish and ASL.

You can watch them by going to https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLewV-zKXDZkiAT8Tp96NysEoq3dDEMi7L
What does the census ask about?

The census asks questions about your home. It asks questions like:

• What is your phone number?

• Do you own or rent your home?

• How many people live in your home?
What does the census ask about?

The census also asks questions about each person who lives in your home. It asks questions like:

• What is your name?

• What is your race?

• What is your sex?

• How old are you?
What does the census ask about?

Only one person should answer the census in each home.

If you live with other people, you should talk to them about who will fill it out.
What does the census ask about?

Your answers to the census are secret. The government will not share your answers with anyone.

The census does not ask if you are a citizen of the United States. The census just checks that you live in the United States.
Avoiding scams

Sometimes, other people who don’t work for the census office pretend to be census workers.

Here are some ways to spot a fake census worker.

A real census worker will never ask for your:
• Social security number
• Bank account information
Avoiding scams

A real census worker will never ask you for money. Taking the census is free!

A real census worker will never threaten you if you don’t answer their questions. They will never say you could go to jail.

A real census worker will never say they work for a political party, like the Republicans or Democrats. Real census workers don’t work for political parties.
Make sure to get counted!

The census only happens every 10 years. But it has a big impact on how our government works. **It’s really important to take the census.** Make sure your voice counts!

To learn more about the census, go to [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov)

To learn more about the census affects people with disabilities, go to [thearc.org/census/](http://thearc.org/census/)
Any questions?